

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 IO-14 HA-05 /106 W
-----031329 152110Z /73

R 141240Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7389
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS MAPUTO 1181

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV RH
SUBJECT: ROBERT MUGABE'S INTERVIEW IN MAPUTO PAPER

1. MAPUTO DAILY NOTICIAS ON SEPT 13 PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH ZANU PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE WHICH WAS GIVEN "SOME DAYS AGO" TO THE PAPER. MUGABE CLAIMED THAT ANGLO-AMERICANS ARE NOW INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR AN INTERNAL ACCORD OF SOME NATIONALISTS IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. HE SAID THE REASON FOR THIS MANEUVER IS THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICANS SEE THAT THE BASIC POINTS THEY PUT FORWARD IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WOULD DESTROY THEIR OWN INTERESTS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THESE BASIC POINTS ARE: SMITH AND HIS REGIME MUST BE REMOVED, AND THE FORCES OF HIS REGIME DISMANTLED AND REPLACED BY LIBERATION FORCES. MUGABE ALLEGED THAT THE BRITISH HAD ACCEPTED THESE POINTS, BUT ARE NOW TRYING TO CHANGE THEM AND SUPPORT NEW PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE.

2. MUGABE, IN REFERRING TO PROMISES BY DAVID OWEN THAT IF SMITH DID NOT CHOOSE TO RESIGN, JOINT UK-US EFFORTS WOULD FORCE
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HIM TO RESIGN, SAID THAT "WE ACCEPTED THIS IN GOOD FAITH, BUT NOW WE BELIEVE THEY WANT SMITH TO STAY". MUGABE ADDED: "WHEN WE SAY THAT SMITH HAS TO BE REMOVED, WE DO NOT MEAN HIM AS A PERSON, BUT ALL OF HIS REGIME. IF SMITH AND HIS REGIME REMAIN THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE AT ALL, ANOTHER SMITH WILL COME."

3. ON THE QUESTION OF PF UNITY, MUGABE SAID THAT "WE ARE FOR

UNITY BASED ON THE ARMED STRUGGLE. FROM ZANU'S SIDE, WE ARE FOR ONE ARMY AND ONE COMMAND ONLY." MUGABE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE PF'S INTERNAL QUESTIONS ARE DISCUSSED "IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND OBJECTIVE WAY".

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW THE EXACT DATE THAT MUGABE WAS INTERVIEWED BY NOTICIAS, BUT WE ASSUME IT WAS JUST PRIOR TO HIS SEPT 9 DEPARTURE FOR ADDIS ABABA. MUGABE DID NOT MENTION DIRECTLY THE SMITH-NKOMO MEETING, BUT CHOSE ONCE AGAIN TO ACCUSE THE ANGLO-AMERICANS OF ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE PF AND SEEKING TO KEEP SMITH IN POWER. DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MAPUTO01181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780376-1081
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780967/aaaaccyn.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00152250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1434358
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROBERT MUGABE'S INTERVIEW IN MAPUTO PAPER
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, US, UK, (MUGABE, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00152250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014